

FLA

To FLAUNT. *v. n.*

1. To make a fluttering show in apparel.

With ivy canopy'd, and interwove

With flaunting honeyfuckle.

These courtiers of applause deny themselves things convenient to flaunt it out, being frequently enough fain to immolate their own desires to their vanity.

Here, attir'd beyond our purse, we go,

And poor, are yet ambitious to be fine.

You sit, you loiter about alchouses, or flaunt about the streets in your new-gilt chariot, never minding me nor your numerous family.

2. To be hung with something loose and flying. This seems not to be proper.

Fortune in men has some small difference made;

One flaunts in rags, one flutters in brocade.

FLAUNT. *n. f.* Any thing loose and airy.

Wildly bound up, what would he say! or how

Should I in these my borrow'd flaunts behold

The sternness of his presence!

FLAVOUR. *n. f.*

1. Power of pleasing the taste.

They have a certain flavour, at their first appearance, from several accidental circumstances, which they may lose, if not taken early.

2. Sweetness to the smell; odour; fragrance.

Myrtle, orange, and the blushing rose,

With bending heads, so high their bloom disclose,

Each seems to smell the flavour which the other blows.

FLAVOURS. *adj.* [from flavour.]

1. Delightful to the palate.

Sweet grapes degen'rate there, and fruits declin'd

From their first flav'rous taste, renounce their kind.

2. Fragrant; odorous.

FLAW. *n. f.* [Flaw, to break; plo, Saxon, a fragment; flaw, Dutch, broken in mind.]

1. A crack or breach in any thing.

This heart shall break into a thousand flaws,

Or ere I weep.

Wool, new-thorn, being laid casually upon a vessel of verjuice, after some time had drunk up a great part of the verjuice, though the vessel were whole, without any flaw, and had not the bungle open.

We found it exceeding difficult to keep out the air from getting in at any imperceptible hole or flaw.

A flaw is in thy ill-bak'd vessel found;

'Tis hollow, and returns a jarring sound.

As if great Atlas, from his height,

Should sink beneath his heavenly weight;

And with a mighty flaw the flaming wall, as once it shall,

Should gape immense, and, rushing down, o'erwhelm this nether ball.

Whether the nymph shall break Diana's law,

Or some frail China-jar receive a flaw.

He that would keep his house in repair, must attend every little breach or flaw, and supply it immediately, else time alone will bring all to ruin.

2. A fault; defect.

Yet certain though it be, it hath flaws; for that the scribblers and brokers do value unfound men to serve their own turn.

Traditions were a proof alone,

Could we be certain such they were, so known:

But since some flaws in long descents may be,

They make not truth, but probability.

And laid her dowry out in law,

To null her jointure with a flaw.

Their judgment has found a flaw in what the generality of mankind admires.

So many flaws had this vow in its first conception.

3. A sudden gust; a violent blast. [from *fio*, Latin.]

Being incens'd, he's flint;

As humorous as Winter, and as sudden

As flaws congealed in the spring of day.

Oh, that that earth, which kept the world in awe,

Should patch a wall, to expel the Winter's flaw.

As a huge fish, laid

Near to the cold weed-gathering shore, is with a north flaw

Shoots back; so, sent against the ground,

Was foil'd Eurialus.

Bursting their brazen dungeon, arm'd with ice,

And snow, and hail, and stormy gust, and flaw,

Boreas, and Cæcias, and Argestes loud,

And Thracias rend the woods, and seas upturn.

I heard the rack,

As earth and sky would mingle; but myself

Was distant; and these flaws, though mortals fear them,

As dangerous to the pillar'd frame of heav'n,

Or to the earth's dark basis underneath,

Are to the main inconsiderable.

FLA

4. A tumult; a tempestuous uproar.

And this fell tempest shall not cease to rage,

Until the golden circuit on my head

Do calm the fury of this madbrain'd flaw.

The fort's revolted to the emperor,

The gates are open'd, the portcullis drawn,

And deluges of armies from the town

Came pouring in: I heard the mighty flaw;

When first it broke, the crowding enigns saw

Which choak'd the passage.

5. A sudden commotion of mind.

Oh these flaws and starts,

Impostors to true fear, would become

A woman's story at a Winter's fire.

To FLAW. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To break; to crack; to damage with fissure.

But his flaw'd heart,

Alack, too weak the conflict to support;

'Twixt two extremes of passion, joy and grief,

Burst smilingly.

The cup was flawed with such a multitude of little cracks,

that it looks like a white, not like a crystalline cup.

The brazen cauldrons with the frosts are flaw'd,

The garment stiff with ice, at hearths is thaw'd.

2. To break; to violate. Out of use.

France hath flaw'd the league, and hath attach'd

Our merchants goods.

FLAWLESS. *adj.* [from flaw.] Without cracks; without defects.

A star of the first magnitude, which the more high, more vast, and more flawless, shines only bright enough to make itself conspicuous.

FLAWN. *n. f.* [plena, Saxon; flan, French; slaw, Dutch.]

A fort of custard; a pie baked in a dish.

To FLAWTER. *v. a.* To scrape or pare a skin.FLAWY. *adj.* [from flaw.] Full of flaws.FLAX. *n. f.* [pleax, plex, Saxon; vlas, Dutch.]

1. The fibrous plant of which the finest thread is made.

The leaves, for the most part, grow alternately on branches:

the cup of the flower consists of one leaf, is tubulous, and divided into five parts at the top; the flower consists of five leaves, which expand in form of a clove gillflower: the ovary, which rises from the centre of the flowercup, becomes an almost globular fruit, which is generally pointed, and composed of many cells, in which are lodged many plain smooth seeds, which are blunt at one end, and generally sharp at the other.

The species are six. The first sort is that which is cultivated for use in divers parts of Europe, and is reckoned an excellent commodity. It should be cultivated.

2. The fibres of flax cleaned and combed for the spinner.

I'll fetch some flax, and whites of eggs,

'T apply to bleeding face.

Then on the rock a scanty measure place

Of vital flax, and turn'd the wheel apace,

And turning sung.

FLAXCOMB. *n. f.* [flax and comb.] The instrument with which the fibres of flax are cleaned from the brittle parts.FLAXDRESSER. *n. f.* [flax and dress.] He that prepares flax for the spinner.FLAXEN. *adj.* [from flax.]

1. Made of flax.

The matron, at her nightly task,

With pensive labour draws the flaxen thread.

The best materials for making ligatures are the flaxen thread that shoemakers use.

2. Fair, long and flowing, as if made of flax.

I bought a fine flaxen long wig, that cost me thirty guineas.

FLAXWEED. *n. f.* A plant.To FLAY. *v. a.* [ad flay, Islandick; flay, Danish; vlas, Dut.]

1. To strip of the skin.

I must have suffered famine, been eaten with wild beasts, or have fallen into the hands of the Spaniards, and been flayed alive.

While the old levitical hierarchy continued, it was part of the ministerial office to flay the sacrifices.

Then give command the sacrifice to haste;

Let the flay'd victims in the plains be cast;

And sacred vows, and mystick songs, apply'd

To grisly Pluto and his gloomy bride.

2. To take off the skin or surface of any thing.

They flay their skin from off them, break their bones, and chop them in pieces.

Neither should that odious custom be allowed of cutting scraws, which is flaying off the green surface of the ground, to cover their cabins, or make up their ditches.

FLAYER. *n. f.* [from flay.] He that strips off the skin of any thing.FLEA. *n. f.* [plea, Saxon; vloye, Dutch; fleach, Scottish.] A small red insect remarkable for its agility in leaping, which sucks the blood of larger animals.

While wormwood hath fed, get a handful or twain;

To save against March to make flea to refrain:

FLE

Where chamber is sweep'd, and wormwood is strown,

No flea for his life date abide to be known.

Fleas breed principally of straw or mats, where there hath been a little moisture.

A valiant flea, that dares eat his breakfast on the lip of a lion.

To FLEA. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To clean from fleas.FLEABANE. *n. f.* [flea and bane.] A plant.

It hath undivided leaves, which, for the most part, are glutinous, and have a strong scent: the cup of the flower is for the most part scaly, and of a cylindrical form: the flower is composed of many florets, which are succeeded by seeds with a downy substance adhering to them.

FLEABITE. *n. f.* [flea and bite.]

1. Red marks caused by fleas.

The attendance of a cancer is commonly a breaking out all over the body, like a fleabiting.

2. A small hurt or pain like that caused by the sting of a flea.

A gout, a cholick, a cutting off an arm or leg, or searing the flesh, are but fleabites to the pains of the soul.

The same expence that breaks one man's back, is not a fleabiting to another.

FLEABITTEN. *adj.* [flea and bite.]

1. Stung by fleas.

2. Mean; worthless.

Fleabitten synod, an assembly brew'd

Of clerks and elders ana, like the rude

Chaos of preb'ytry, where laymen guide,

With the tame woolpack clergy by their side.

FLEAK. *v. a.* [from fleas, Latin. See FLAKE.] A small lock, thread, or twist.

The businness of men depend upon these little long fleaks or threads of hemp and flax.

FLEAM. *n. f.* [corrupted from *φλεγμα*, the instrument used in phlebotomy.] An instrument used to bleed cattle, which is placed on the vein, and then driven by a blow.FLEAWORT. *n. f.* [flea and wort.] A plant.

This plant agrees with plantain and buckthorn-plantain in every respect, excepting that this rises up with leafy stalks, and divides into many branches; whereas both the others produce their flowers upon naked pedicles.

To FLECK. *v. a.* [fleck, German, a spot, Skimmer: perhaps it is derived from fleck, or fleck, an old word for a grate, hurdle, or any thing made of parts laid transverse, from the Islandick flecke.] To spot; to streak; to stripe; to dapple; to variegate.

Let it not see the dawning fleck the skies,

Nor the grey morning from the ocean rise.

Fleck'd in her face, and with disorder'd hair,

Her garments ruffled, and her bosom bare.

Both fleck'd with white, the true Arcadian strain.

To FLECKER. *v. a.* [from fleck.] To spot; to mark with red strokes or touches of different colours; to mark with red wheelies.

The grey-ey'd morn smiles on the frowning night,

Check ring the eastern clouds with streaks of light;

And darkness fleck'd, like a drunkard, reels

From forth day's path, and Titan's burning wheels.

FLED. The preterite and participle not properly of fly, to use the wings, but of flee, to run away.

The truth is fled far away, and leaving is hard at hand.

In vain for life he to the altar fled;

Ambition and revenge have certain speed.

FLEDGE. *adj.* [fledgers, to fly, Dutch.] Full-feathered; able to fly; qualified to leave the nest.

We did find

The shells of fledge souls left behind.

His locks behind,

Illustrous on his shoulders, fledge with wings,

Lay waving round.

To FLEDGE. *v. a.* [from the adjective.] To furnish with wings; to supply with feathers.

The birds were not as yet fledged enough to shift for themselves.

The speedy growth of birds that are hatched in nests, and fed by the old ones 'till they be fledged, and come almost to full bigness in about a fortnight, seems to me an argument of providence.

The fadals of celestial mould,

Fledg'd with ambrosial plumes, and rich with gold,

Surround her feet.

To FLEE. *v. n.* pret. fled. [This word is now almost universally written fly, though properly to fly, pleogan, is to move with wings, and flee, plean, to run away. They are now confounded.] To run from danger; to have recourse to shelter.

Behold, this city is near to flee unto.

Were men so dull they could not see

That Lyce painted; should they flee

FLE

Like simple birds into a net,

So grossly woven and ill set?

There are none of us fall into those circumstances of danger, want, or pain, that we can have hopes of relief but from God alone; none in all the world to flee to, but him.

FLEECE. *n. f.* [fley, fley, Saxon; vlesse, Dutch.] As much wool as is shorn from one sheep.

Giving account of the annual increase

Both of their lambs and of their woolly fleece.

So many days my ewes have been with young,

So many months ere I shall shear the fleeces.

I am shepherd to another man,

And do not shear the fleeces that I graze.

Hang on her temples like a golden fleece.

Sailors have used every night to hang fleeces of wool on the sides of their ships, towards the water; and they have cruised fresh water out of them in the morning.

The sheep will prove much to the advantage of the woollen manufacture, by the fineness of the fleeces.

To FLEECE. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To clip the fleece off a sheep.

2. To strip; to pull; to plunder, as a sheep is robbed of his wool.

Courts of justice have a small pension, so that they are tempted to take bribes, and to fleece the people.

FLEECE. *adj.* [from fleece.] Having fleeces of wool.

As when two rams, flur'd with ambitious pride,

Fight for the rule of the rich fleeced flock,

Their horned fronts so fierce on either side

Do meet, that with the terror of the shock

Astonish both stand senseless as a block.

FLEECE. *adj.* [from fleece.] Woolly; covered with wool.

Not all the fleecy wealth

That doth enrich these downs, is worth a thought

To that my errand.

From eastern point

Of Libra, to the fleecy star, that bears

Andromeda far off Atlantic seas.

Let her glad valleys smile with wavy corn;

Let fleecy flocks her rising hills adorn.

The good shepherd tends his fleecy care,

Seeks freshest pasture, and the purest air;

Explores the loft, the wand'ring sheep directs.

To FLEER. *v. n.* [pleopian, to trifle, Saxon; fleardan, Scottish. Skimmer thinks it formed from leer.]

1. To mock; to gibe; to jest with insolence and contempt.

You speak to Calca, and to such a man

That is no steering tell-tale.

Dares the slave

Come hither, cover'd with an antic face,

To leer and scorn at our solemnity!

Do I, like the female tribe,

Think it well to leer and gibe?

2. To leer; to grin with an air of civility.

How popular and courteous; how they grin and leer upon every man they meet!

FLEER. *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. Mockery expressed either in words or looks.

Encave yourself,

And mark the fleers, the gibes, and notable scorns,

That dwell in ev'ry region of his face.

2. A deceitful grin of civility.

If a man will but observe such persons exactly, he shall generally spy such false lines, and such a fly treacherous leer upon their face, that he shall be sure to have a cast of their eye to warn him, before they give him a cast of their nature to betray him.

FLEERER. *n. f.* [from fleer.] A mocker; a fawner.

FLEET. FLEOT. FLOT. Are all derived from the Saxon fleot, which signifies a bay or gulph.

FLEET. *n. f.* [fleta, Saxon.] A company of ships; a navy.

Our pray'rs are heard; our master's fleet shall go

As far as winds can bear, or waters flow.

FLEET. *n. f.* [pleot, Saxon, an estuary, or arm of the sea.] A creek; an inlet of water. A provincial word, from which the Fleet-prison and Fleet-street are named.

They have a very good way in Essex of draining of lands that have land-floods or flets running through them, which make a kind of a small creek.

FLEET. *adj.* [fletur, Islandick.] Swift of pace; quick; nimble; active.

Upon that shore he spied Atin stand;

There by his master left, when late he far'd

In Phædria's fleet bark.

I take him for the better dog:

—Thou art a fool: if Echo were as fleet,

I would esteem him worth a dozen such.

He had in his stables one of the fleetest horses in England.

His fear was greater than his haste;